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FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS STAFF

PROGRAM Panorama

STATION WTTG TV

DATE May 7, 1970

12:30 PM

CITY Washington, DC

FRANCIS GARY POWERS INTERVIEWED

JOHN WILLIS: Francis Gary Powers, Operation Overflight; written in cooperation or conjunction with Kurt Gentry.

I think one of the enigmas of the 1960's was the story of Francis Powers. And I will give it to you from my own individual -- I often wondered what ever happened to Francis Gary Powers. What is the real story?

And there's sort of a bad taste in my mouth, and I often wondered why. I don't think too many Americans expected this man to commit hari kari, abort and destruct himself, although I have a feeling some people did. But there were many who wondered why didn't he blow up his ship. We had all this advanced, sophisticated mechanisms to get rid of our scientific know how.

And then I remember the newspapers covering his trial in Moscow. And what stuck to my mind was his saying that I'm sorry, like he was apologizing to the Russians. That didn't stick too well with me. I mean, it's bad enough, but I can understand to be sorry about being caught, but what he did I didn't think was that bad to stand up there and apologize to the Russians.